

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-18 (canceled).
19. (new) A method for renewing software in a software-controlled machine that comprises a sensor means and an operation control circuit connected to said sensor means, the operation control circuit containing a renewal control program, said method comprising the steps of:
- writing command information and operating data on software respectively on a command card and an information card;
 - detecting said command information on said command card by said sensor means to shift the operation control circuit from an operating mode to a renewal mode;
 - detecting said operating data on said information card by said sensor means;
 - storing the operating data in the operation control circuit of the renewal mode for renewal of the software in accordance with said renewal control program;
 - shifting the operation control circuit from the renewal mode to the operating mode; and
 - operating the machine with the renewed operating data.
20. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the detecting process of the command information comprises reading said command information on said command card by said sensor means; and the detecting process of the operating data comprises reading said operating data on said information card.

21. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said software-controlled machine is a validator with an inlet and an optical or magnetic sensor as said sensor means;

the detecting process of the command information comprises inserting the command card into the inlet, reading command information from the command card by said sensor means, and discharging the command card from the validator;

the detecting process of the operating data comprises inserting said information card into the inlet, reading the operating data contained in said information card by said sensor means to store the operating data in a program memory in accordance with said renewal control program, and discharging the information card from the validator; and

after completion of storing the operating data, validating bills utilizing the renewed operating data.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the detecting process of the command information further comprises deciding by the operation control circuit whether an insert into the inlet is a genuine bill, the command card or the information card, and

upon recognition of the command card, the operation control circuit is shifted from the operating mode to the renewal mode;

upon recognition of the information card, the operating data is stored in the operation control circuit in accordance with said renewal control program.

23. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the operating mode of the operation control circuit of the validator comprises detecting an insert entered into the inlet of the validator by an inlet sensor; driving a conveyer means in response to an output of said inlet sensor to transport the insert along a

passageway inside the validator; optically or magnetically detecting characteristic of the transported insert by said sensor means; and further moving the insert in the back of said sensor means of the validator when the operation control circuit in the operating mode decides that the insert is a genuine bill.

24. (new) The method of claim 21, further comprising producing a signal from an alarm device to indicate the renewal mode.

25. (new) The method of claim 23, further comprising driving said conveyer means in the adverse direction to return the paper to the inlet when the operation control circuit in the operating mode decides that the paper is not a genuine bill.

26. (new) An apparatus for renewing software in a software-controlled machine, comprising an operation control circuit that has software for controlling said machine and renewal control program for storing operating data as new software;

a sensor means connected to said operation control circuit;
a command card containing command information which shifts the operation control circuit from an operating mode to a renewal mode when the sensor means detects the command information on the command card; and

an information card containing operating data to be detected by the sensor means and then stored in a program memory connected to the operation control circuit for renewal of the software in accordance with said renewal control program during the renewal mode of the operation control circuit;

wherein after completion of storing the operating data, the operation control circuit is shifted from the renewal mode to the operating mode to operate the machine with the renewed operating data.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said command card and information card are made into a combined card including the command information and operating data.

28. (new) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said software-controlled machine is a validator that comprises an inlet and an optical or magnetic sensor as said sensor means.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the operating data includes information necessary to discriminate at least one of the optically or magnetically characteristic patterns of papers, kinds of papers to be discriminated by the validator, operating software for controlling the operating sequence of the validator, acceptable criterion of papers by the validator, requirement for adjusting the sensor means, maintenance data of the validator and an identification number of a main device equipped with the validator.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said operation control circuit comprises an analytical program for analyzing the operating data read out from the information card; and an operating software for operating the operation control circuit in accordance with the renewed software in the program memory.

31. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising an inlet sensor for detecting an insert entered into the inlet of said validator; and a conveyer means for transporting the insert along a passageway in response to an output of said inlet sensor;

wherein said operation control circuit receives the output signal of said sensor means to validate whether the insert is a genuine bill,

whereby said operation control circuit controls the conveyer means to transport the insert along the passageway and further move the insert when the operation control circuit recognizes the insert as a genuine bill.

32. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein each of the command cards is used to individually correspond to a different kind of the operating data, and each of the information cards is used to correspond to each command card inserted into the inlet.

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising an alarm device disposed in the vicinity of the inlet for producing a signal indicative of the renewal mode.